

Application Serial No. 09/720,762

Attorney Docket No. 114174.00014

Amendment and Response to Office Action Dated November 4, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 3 and 6-11 are now pending, a total of 8 claims. Claims 1 and 9 are independent.

Independent claims 1 and 9, and dependent claims 3, 6, 10 and 11 are currently amended. Dependent claim 2, 4 and 5 were previously canceled. Dependent claims 7 and 8 are unchanged. New dependent claims 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17 have been added to the application.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application. As discussed below, the pending claims are not anticipated, taught, or suggested by any of the references of record.

I. Independent Claims 1 and 9

Claims 1-3 and 6-10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Trull et al. (U.S. 6,080,136), and in further view of Ito (U.S. 5,063, 025), and Akaike et al. (U.S. 5,061,247).

Independent claim 1, as amended, recites as follows:

1. A gasket for a pre-filled syringe, the syringe comprising a barrel into which liquid is charged, wherein a peripheral side surface of the gasket that contacts an inner surface of the syringe barrel is provided with a restriction, and wherein a periphery of a bottom surface of the gasket that is not for contact with the liquid is formed into a tapered slant, and wherein the peripheral side surface that contacts the inner surface of the syringe barrel is laminated with polyethylene fluoride resin, and wherein the restriction is not laminated.

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None of the references teach or suggest a syringe gasket "wherein the peripheral side surface that contacts the inner surface of the syringe barrel is laminated with polyethylene fluoride resin, and wherein the restriction [of the peripheral side surface] is not laminated." Selectively applying a coating to only part of the gasket may reduce wrinkling that may be generated on a peripheral side surface of the gasket when a gasket that is fully laminated with polyethylene fluoride resin is inserted into a syringe barrel.

Trull et al. has no disclosure that a plunger surface may be coated.

Ito teaches that a protective coating layer may be formed on the outer surface of a linear plunger. (Column 5, 1-7.) There is no suggestion that Ito recognized the importance of selectively applying the coating to some surfaces of the plunger and not to others, let alone to "the peripheral side surface that contacts the inner surface of the syringe barrel," as recited in claim 1.

Akaike has no teaching or suggestion that a plunger may be coated or provided with a restriction.

Independent claim 9 similarly recites a syringe gasket "wherein the peripheral side surface that contacts the inner surface of the syringe barrel is laminated with polyethylene fluoride resin, and wherein the restriction is not laminated." For at least the reasons discussed above, claim 9 is also patentable over the references of record.

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II. Dependent Claims

The dependent claims are patentable with independent claims 1 and 9, as discussed above. In addition, the dependent claims recite additional features that further distinguish the cited references.

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In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance. Applicant therefore requests that the application be passed to issuance. The Examiner may telephone Applicant's undersigned counsel at the number concerning prosecution of this application.

Enclosed herewith is a Petition for Extension of Time for three (3) months.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: November 4, 2005

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